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Schools

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY

1970 - 1971

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Gentlemen:

I regret to say that my Annual Report for 1970-1971 does not contain as much good news or optimistic forecasting as I should like. The defeat of the referendum for the addition and rehabilitation at the senior high school last December was a real blow, the repercussions of which will extend far into the future. Since I came to Bloomfield in 1959, I have been advocating major renovations and additions to that school, which seem to have been postponed for a variety of reasons. In the future we will incur not only increased costs but a reduction in the program available to the students. It is probable that within another year we shall face the prospect of an extended school day or double sessions. Any project to supply additional facilities will almost certainly take two years to complete. Even more time would be necessary to rehabilitate the existing structure.

The year was also marked by increasing student unrest in the senior high school, and to some extent in the two junior high schools. While such a development appears to be nationwide in its scope, it is unfortunately being stimulated and guided by outside organizations and condoned by higher authorities. Respect for laws and traditions has declined in the home, in the school, and in the public at large. We shall need the support of the parents and other citizens of Bloomfield if we are to cope with this trend.

Members of the Board of Education (con't)

The faculty at large was cooperative and industrious and engaged in many activities devoted to improving the program of the schools. We look to further improvements in the coming school year.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK B. STOVER
Superintendent of Schools

Bloomfield, New Jersey
July, 1970

BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
1970-1971	
Total Average Student Enrollment	8496
School Buildings Operated	17
Supervisors and Principals	21
Teachers	449
Other Employees (Full and Part-time)	213
Day School Cost Per Pupil in	
Total Average Enrollment	\$939.36
Day School Expenditures	
(Without new buildings, etc.)	\$7,980,867.96

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

After some years we are returning to a full time audio-visual coordinator, who has proved to be most effective during his first year. He has initiated a slide making service for all departments as well as the production of 8 mm. movies. More extensive use is being made of video tape recorders, and there are plans for even greater use. This center is also providing a stencil making service and a tape recording service for the faculty.

The Business Education Department introduced some team teaching into the study of record keeping. Further work was done in occupational orientation, including the administering of civil service examinations within school classes. The Business English project involved developing a better correlation between the Business English course and the work in the Business Education Department.

This year the English Department formed a student book committee and a student curriculum committee. As a result of faculty and student discussions, three mini-courses were introduced this year, and twenty are planned for next year. These are designed to make the studies in language arts more relevant to the pupils enrolled. It is interesting to know that of the 18,000 books in use in this department 15,000 were paperbacks. This type of book requires less initial cost and also provides for flexibility in making additional offerings. During the year twenty films were shown for the enrichment of literature study. The study of vocations, which is a part of the English curriculum, was revised. There has been a very successful interchange of teachers with the departments of Social Studies, Foreign Language, Business Education and Guidance.

Several successful assembly programs were rendered.

The "Poetry Sing-Out" was well received in its second year.

Another program entitled "Me, Too, Build America" was developed by the students to show the influence of minority groups, particularly the black group, in the development of our national culture.

In Art we were able to accommodate three additional classes by hiring an additional part time teacher. However, the demand for this subject has always exceeded the seats available in the past three years. This deficiency cannot be remedied without additional facilities. The art majors in the school presented one-man shows in the foyer, which has become the art exhibit center of the school.

The Foreign Language Department currently enrolls 49% of the student population. Although this is approximately the same percentage as that of college-bound students, it does include students who are not college oriented, and represents what is one of the largest proportions of language enrollment in the state.

Our greatest growth has been in the field of Spanish, and future growth in the study of Italian is predicted. There is some discussion about the future study of Russian. There were frequent meetings with language teachers in the junior high schools in order to promote better correlation of programs. In our next budget we will have to consider some replacement of the language laboratory, which has about completed its useful life after a decade of constant use. It is possible that we shall consider some decentralization of laboratory type facilities.

In the past year we had the services of an additional guidance counselor whose main emphasis was vocational placement for non-college bound. The guidance load continues to increase not only because of increased college placement over the past several years but because the role of job counseling is becoming more demanding. We observe an increasing placement of our graduates in New Jersey colleges as tuition and other costs in out

of state colleges have mounted steeply.

The Guidance Department has reported an over-enrollment in industrial arts, fine arts, and home economics, as well as greater demand for elective music courses. An example can be found in that 340 girls applied for home economics, but there was space for only 275.

In Home Economics some stress was placed on large food production, using the high school cafeteria as a laboratory. There was some emphasis also on foreign cooking. As economic pressures have mounted, so has the popularity of "Sew Your Own Clothes", and more and more girls are interested in becoming proficient.

In the Industrial Arts program 714 students enrolled. The Chairman reports that there were many upgradings in texts and equipment. The Cooperative Industrial Arts program continues its success and now has an advisory committee of interested citizens and employers to react to future developments in the program, as well as to evaluate the present program.

As reported in former years, the library has an acute space problem. While the collection has been building over the past five years, we have exhausted space in which to put more volumes, and we have a lack of space for the number of students who wish to use this facility. The Library Council was very active with sixty students participating, including the president of the New Jersey Students' Library Clubs.

The Mathematics Department enrolled a record number in the field of general mathematics, and there has been the greatest interest in the improvement of curriculum in this offering. Teachers have been preparing for the introduction of computer instruction next year to selected students.

Teachers were practicing on the equipment this spring. Our district has contracted for a share in the computer at Wayne, along with thirty other school districts.

Vocal students attended the rehearsal of the opera, "Madame Butterfly" and later in the year heard the full performance of "Lucia de Lamermoor". In addition, twenty-six students took part in the Opera Festival which was presented in March at Union High School. This featured 700 students in a concert version of "Aida". At Christmastime the combined choruses and orchestra presented Poulenc's "Gloria" for the evening performance. There were seven community performances by vocal and instrumental groups which have done so much to preserve a fine musical tradition in the community.

Five students made the All State Chorus, five students qualified for the North Jersey Regional Band, and two students qualified for the All State Orchestra and the All-Eastern Orchestra. An exchange program was held with the band in Bloomfield, Connecticut.

A new physical education area was made possible by the purchase and development of several properties on State Street. After the blacktopping and fencing in of this area, it was used by physical education classes in good weather. One of the major emphases in physical education and health this year was in the study and administering of the new curriculum on narcotics, which was mandated by the state. All secondary teachers participated during the eight workshops held during the fall, but the Physical Education Department was responsible for teaching ten hours per student during the second semester. Films such as "Marijuana" were used to good advantage.

Forty per cent of the students in high school take part in intramural activities. We believe this to be a very good preparation for future life.

For the first time since 1958, Bloomfield High School won the state basketball championship for Group 4 schools in the final tournament at Princeton. This was an even more unusual achievement since four of the five starting team were juniors.

The Science Department reports an expansion in the study of earth science. This subject has proved to be especially popular with junior girls. Additional staff next year will make possible even greater enrollments. The Science Department also plans to participate in the use of computer time next year. Visual aids have been introduced more frequently and will be expanded in the future. One particularly effective device for scientific study is the 8 mm. loop film.

The Social Studies Department will offer five mini-courses next year. There will also be more field trips in the planning. The Ecology Club enrolled almost eighty students and was extremely successful in participating in such projects as the cleaning of Clark's Pond during spring vacation. These developments reflect the desire of students to become more involved in problems of their own time. This is further indicated by some discussion of past and future social problems and of student government problems in the Social Studies classes.

The class in Special Education enrolled 15 boys and 3 girls from Bloomfield and three surrounding towns. These students have a program at school for part of the day and afterwards go to jobs, to training centers, or to trade schools. The coordinator does the teaching, visits the places of employment and collaborates with the New Jersey Division of Rehabilitation in future placement of pupils.

As reported in the foreword, student unrest was at a climax this year. Most of this is centered on the desire of some students to dress as they please, have fewer school regulations and more freedom for their own persons. This mood

has been developing since 1968 and has been fostered by such groups as the Student Union, the American Civil Liberties Union, and by some past pronouncements and conferences held by the State Department of Education. This year for the first time we had the appearance of several underground newspapers. A strike threatened by a small group failed to materialize. Several unfounded rumors about the suspension of a student and the firing of a teacher produced a demonstration in February which was followed by conferences between the administration and the students concerning their requests. The Board of Education also set up a liaison committee, and the Principal organized a parents' advisory group.

As a result of these discussions, students not scheduled for a regular 8th period were allowed to leave early. In the spring students were allowed to choose three different places during their assigned study periods (open study), but this proved to be very unsuccessful. Truancy and cutting were accelerated, and students' attitudes became more lackadaisical. Efforts to get the Student Government Association to help police the situation, which was caused by their requests, were also unsuccessful.

We can expect student pressures to continue and the requests to multiply as the years go along. As long as such attitudes are prevalent through most of the neighboring communities and as long as some movements are encouraged by outside organizations, we can expect new challenges to authority of any kind. The administrative load at the high school has increased greatly as these pressures have mounted. We are hopeful that some ways can be found in the coming year to achieve better understandings and provide a better educational climate than was possible during the past year.

One corollary of the above student actions was a general increase in vandalism within the building. This reached unprecedented proportions even after some of the vandals had been apprehended and fined. Some new deterrent measures will be taken in the fall in an effort to solve this problem.

NORTH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Both North and South Junior High Schools will have two new programs next year. For the first time, Italian will be offered as a language in the ninth grade. (i.e. the study of Algebra I will be covered in two years instead of one.) North Junior reports a changing attitude on the part of pupils, reflecting some of the same attitudes towards parents and school authorities displayed in the senior high school. This has also resulted in some faculty discontent. Some members of the faculty also feel that the school is overcrowded and that some attempt should be made to change district lines so that additional population would be taken from North Junior and placed in South Junior High School.

To improve communication, North Junior plans to issue a parent newsletter periodically throughout the next year, which is the custom in both South Junior High School and senior high school.

Additional safeguards against vandalism have been taken in the school, although this is still a perennial problem. The remote and isolated character of the rear part of the school is an invitation to mischievous young people. In some cases, the vandalism has been the act of deeply disturbed youngsters, some of whom have also vandalized houses, businesses, and churches. Even after substantial fines are levied, they continue to repeat the offenses.

The population in North Junior continues to increase, the result of increased changeover from parochial schools. However, the number expected for the fall of 1971 is about the same as in the current year.

The introduction of school aides during the past year has been considered successful, and this additional personnel has provided not only supervision in such areas as cafeteria or study hall, but also some clerical assistance. In some cases, this has made possible the release of teachers for other assignments.

SOUTH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Change in the administration resulted in some changes in procedures and policies in this school. An example is the new Parent Teacher Council (Patco). This group has met periodically throughout the year and has plans for expansion next year. There has also been active committee work in reviewing the present curriculum offerings.

For the first time specialized assistance in reading is being made available to the school, and most of the English classes have had briefing on methods for reading improvement. Video tape has been used to analyze the styles of three teachers as an illustration of a method for evaluating teacher performance.

The Council of South End Principals was formed to improve liaison between South Junior High School and its feeder schools. The orientation program for the incoming seventh grade also involved conferences and communication with the sixth grade teachers of the respective elementary schools. The revised orientation program proved successful.

A parent newsletter entitled "Know Your School" was circulated, and this method of communication will be emphasized more next year.

The Student Council held a Constitution Convention. Its purpose was to revise the constitution of Student Government. The whole student body was involved.

Student behavior was excellent, and there were relatively few signs of student unrest as characterized the other secondary schools. The one negative element was the numerous telephoning of bomb scares, 26 in number. Even after some students had been apprehended and their cases referred to police, calls continued to come in.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

At Brookside one of the interesting developments was the formation of the Brookside Pollution Patrol, which served not only in Earth Week but during the spring. The lunchroom had a Parent Paint-In when the parents, principal, and some teachers came in old clothes to do this volunteer job. The plans call for student murals to be placed on the walls next year. Parents were also highly pleased when they visited the school to see the Science Fair which was also held in three other schools.

At Carteret there was continued interest in newer methods of reading, emphasizing electronic devices and supplemental aids. Other efforts were directed toward improving education in early childhood, utilizing such methods as auditory-visual motor aids in the form of filmstrips, records, and tapes. In spite of all the supplemental materials, the principal emphasizes the need to humanize education at a time when large numbers are beginning to dehumanize society.

The report of the Demarest principal illustrates again the increasing use of visual and auditory aids in the development of reading:

"In grades two through six the controlled reader was used widely in the E.D.L. spelling program. The controlled reader was widely used with film-strips in grades four, five and six. Because we had one listening center at grade level, wider use was possible this year. The kindergarten used "How Does the Story End" tapes. First grade used "Sound Tapes", a series of exercises for the 44 sounds in the English language. The second grade used tapes with exercises in blending. Third grades accented vowel sounds. Fourth grades used tapes in syllabication and accentuation. Fifth and sixth grades used tapes called "Listening" to train in this area."

This school also has had lateral exchange of groups in reading and/or mathematics as did Fairview, Franklin and Watsessing. This method takes the lower groups in each of three sections in the same grade and assigns them to one teacher for a particular subject. The same thing is done with the medium group and the high group. This school also had a part time librarian, and the principal cites the increased use of the library by students.

Demarest is also the site of specialized help for hard of hearing children located throughout the town. In addition to their hearing handicap, some of these children also have many adjustment problems, which result in part from their handicap. This is particularly evident in the early years of their education.

Fairview holds its kindergarten orientation in the evening so that both mothers and fathers can attend. A special slide package is shown to introduce the program. Fairview had hundreds of parents at the annual Halloween parade where music was provided by the South Junior High School Band. As in past years, the school held a drive for the collection of clothes to be provided to Appalachia through the Save the Children organization. This school also issues each year a Fairview booklet entitled "Vacation Fun" to promote reading during the summer time.

Forest Glen continues to be the center for neurologically impaired pupils. This year there were three classes and in addition some older pupils were in regular classes but received special supplemental help. Because of numbers some additional children will be accommodated at Oak View next year. Some of the children have been taught to use the primer typewriter. The school also has a swimming program, using the Orange Y.W.C.A.

Franklin had a pilot project in the use of new language arts texts which employ the linguistic approach. This project proved most successful. The school suffered some overcrowding which is not expected to improve very much in the immediate years ahead.

Oak View was involved in a pilot program on alcohol. This program was presented in three sixth grades. The school considers it a worthwhile addition to the program in health. As in other schools, a program on narcotics was also offered in the sixth grade.

As mentioned before, Watsessing was one of the schools featuring lateral exchange in the upper group where it has proved beneficial for some years. The population in the neighborhood served by this school has been changing greatly, presenting problems of assimilation not previously encountered.

Brookdale offered to its kindergarten students a pilot program in speech perception and articulation. In the opinion of the principal and the speech therapist, this might be considered for townwide use. The Home and School Association made a gift of overhead transparencies to initiate a science-in-motion unit. The reading program in the high groups in upper grades emphasized individualized reading. On the negative side, the principal commented on the bad condition of the all-purpose room, which was never constructed properly, and on the changing attitude of children which also reflects some

of the same characteristics as reported in North Junior High School and senior high school.

Berkeley School continues to report a high transiency rate in its pupil population as the neighborhood keeps changing. Child study team conferences, involving the principal, psychologist, social worker, and occasionally the teacher or nurse, are held every Tuesday. On the plus side, there has been improvement in the reading readiness program in kindergarten, in the linguistic approach to language arts, and in the new library program made possible by additional personnel.

George Morris School continues to be a show place in special education and is visited by many teachers and administrators from other districts, by college students, etc. Eight potential teachers in special education were in training in the school this year. Nine children will be moving to the special class in South Junior High School, but there are others to take their places. This school is beginning to be somewhat crowded. The principal points out that some children take part in basketball, baseball, and bowling, which seems a desirable development.

Seventy children, including those from George Morris, will take part in the summer camp program entitled Shield.

CURRICULUM

Next year for the first time all first grades will use the I.T.A. method of reading. The school system has now had experience with this method for five years, and it has proved its worth, particularly in the side effects of greater skill in all the language arts. Only a relatively small number of children who have had I.T.A. in the first grade are in the remedial program in reading in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades.

Sir John Pitman, son of the founder of I.T.A., appeared in Bloomfield this year at a workshop held for our own teachers and neighboring communities.

With the expansion of personnel in the elementary library field (five full time elementary librarians), there will be need for the development of a new library science program. In some schools library space is beginning to be a problem.

There is an evident growth of interest in space science and environmental science in the upper grades. Earth week observances were held throughout the ten elementary schools, but this wasn't the only time when ecology was of interest to pupils.

For the first time there was specialized reading help in both junior high schools, with an evident need to increase the help in both schools in future years. Next year special help will be available at the senior high school.

Ninth grade social studies, which currently involves world history after the fall of Rome, will have a new emphasis. This will feature twentieth century culture in Asia, Africa, India, and the U.S.S.R. These areas are becoming particularly important and relevant for today's youth. Fourth grade social studies is considering new materials for the study of New Jersey, and this year John Cunningham, the noted author, was present to explain some materials he has developed.

An in-service workshop on linguistics was held for the benefit of elementary teachers. This was in preparation for the introduction of new materials next year.

Reference has already been made to the introduction of computer instruction for the senior high school in mathematics and science. Since there has already been some instruction in

this in South Junior High School, it is probable that this sort of training will also be extended to the junior high school level in future years.

A workshop in fine arts was held for elementary teachers on a voluntary basis. Nearly a hundred teachers participated in the afternoon and evening sessions.

A Curriculum Council was formed this year, which included teachers, principals, and parents, to examine the needs of the schools for the Seventies. The results of this council are available in summaries prepared by the office of Dr. Fredric M. Lavenburg, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, and are much too voluminous to be included in this report.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Mention has been made of the in-service workshop on narcotics education for secondary teachers. It was coordinated by the Director of Health, Safety and Physical Education. He was also chairman of the committee charged with the development of curriculum for junior high schools and the senior high school and development of a new curriculum for the sixth grade. He was assisted by the local juvenile authorities and the chairman of the Science Department of South Junior High School.

It may be pointed out that Bloomfield has an enviable pedestrian safety record. It was named by the National Safety Council as one of the three safest cities for its size in the United States. We believe that safety education in the schools has contributed to this achievement.

Physical education demonstrations were held in the three secondary schools and in Franklin School, and met with parental approval. The director states that there will be a re-evaluation of the after-school playground program in the coming year.

MUSIC

The music supervisor cites attempts to foster group singing at each level. Group singing, especially of patriotic songs, seems to have declined with the general public, and he believes that some attempt must be made to overcome this trend. Several developments are contemplated for next year. There will be a pilot program in the fourth grades at Franklin and Brookside Schools in exploratory instrumental music. Children in these classes will be given experiences in a variety of instruments so that they can better determine the choice of instrument in fifth grade. At the high school another music teacher will be added, which will allow for expansion of music theory classes that have been in demand, as well as additional vocal and instrumental programs.

ATHLETICS

This was a successful year in Bloomfield, as is usually the case. Football season ended in a victory over Montclair. The soccer team won its fifth consecutive big 10 championship; the cross-country team won its third consecutive big 10 championship; the basketball team won the state championship for group 4. The golf team placed second in the big 10 championship, and the track team won fourth place in Essex County. In most other sports the wins and losses were split.

Because of rising costs for transportation, supervision and materials, the Athletic Association has had to rely on the Board of Education to pick up deficits which it has incurred for the past several years. Since we offer so many varsity sports at the senior high school, and also since championships and tournaments are relatively expensive, it may be anticipated that the support of the Board of Education will be necessary in the

foreseeable future. Most of our sports do not realize any gate receipts.

CHILD GUIDANCE AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

A quotation from the Director of Guidance and Special Education Services may illustrate the major problem of this department:

"Adolescents, seen in record number by the child study department this year, often reflect the confused mood of a country undergoing great trial and agony in examining its institutions, its value systems, its basic purposes, and its future directions. For example, we have witnessed mindless militancy in the matter of students' rights juxtaposed with democratic discussions in the highest tradition of the system, senseless destruction of physical property coupled with some very encouraging ecological improvement endeavors. Our casework and counseling, especially in the area of drug abuse and disciplinary cases, have brought us into more frequent contact with 'unconcerned' parents than those who seem deeply caring, and this fact is often plainly a root cause of the presenting problem.

The tremendous increase in the number of referrals from the high school level noted last year continued unabated. This was partially due to policy implementation on drug abuse, major suspension, and school re-admission situations."

A new drug counseling program was inaugurated for the community with the help of Schering Corporation and the League for Family Service. While it had some difficulties in its first year of operation, it was the one recourse to which students could be referred for some form of prevention or rehabilitation. In the coming year the town hopes to have a Federal grant to establish the program on a more stable basis.

Members of the department, like administrators in the secondary schools, report a great number of students rejected control by parents and schools. The number of referrals from secondary schools, especially from the senior high school, has been growing at a rapid pace. Many students are suspended until they can be admitted through examinations by the Child Guidance Department. Several of our psychologists believe that some

pupils are affected by overcrowding and the lack of enough vocationally oriented programs in school.

Special Education in Bloomfield is a big job. The expenditure during the year was \$538,000, half of which will be reimbursed later by state aid. It includes not only our own special classes but supplemental instruction for other handicapped children, home instruction for those too handicapped to be in school, and placement in special programs in other school districts or in private institutions. Transportation costs are very high because of the nature of the pupils served, and the fact that they are scattered around the entire community.

Because of new state regulations, a three year program for educable mentally retarded children, who attend the high school, has been developed to go into operation in 1971. This will culminate in a diploma. Other regulations have required the hiring of additional learning disability specialists. Some expansion of psychological and social work staff is needed as the demand grows for more individual and group counseling.

In speech, too, we see some need for additional staff particularly because of the persistence of speech problems at the junior and senior high school level which are not solved during the elementary school years, and because of the needs of neurologically impaired pupils. There are some hopeful developments which have been carried on in an experimental kindergarten speech program and in auditorial and perceptual programs in the early grades.

MAJOR BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS - 1970-1971

Senior High School

1. An outdoor physical education playground on State Street was completed.
2. Slate chalkboard reconditioning was continued on a programmed basis.
3. A public address system was installed throughout the building.
4. Corridor lockers were reconditioned.

South Junior High School

1. Two boilers were completely reconditioned.
2. A program to replace obsolete and worn out pupil furniture was begun.

North Junior High School

1. Preventive maintenance was begun on roof gravel stops to prevent leaks.
2. A stairwell was rebuilt to reduce the exposed glass area, thereby reducing vandalism costs.
3. Several vandalized skylights were removed.

Berkeley School

1. Two new complete classrooms were constructed.
2. The interior and exterior of the building were repainted.
3. An acoustical ceiling and fluorescent lights were installed in a ground floor corridor.
4. Some worn out pupil furniture was replaced.
5. Smoke dampers were installed throughout the building.

Carteret School

1. Acoustical ceilings were installed in two rooms.
2. Defective venetian blinds were replaced.
3. One defective wooden floor was replaced with concrete.

Brookside School

1. An obsolete master clock was replaced.
2. Worn out pupil furniture was replaced.

Demarest School

1. Worn out pupil furniture was replaced.
2. A chain link fence was installed along the south side of the school property.

Watsessing School

1. An acoustical ceiling and a unit ventilator were installed in one kindergarten.
2. A new lunchroom was opened.
3. Chalkboards were resurfaced throughout.

Fairview School

1. One supplemental classroom was completed.
2. Evergreen shrubs were planted in front of the main building.
3. A public address system was installed.

Brookdale School

1. Worn out pupil furniture was replaced.
2. Chain link fence around this property was repainted.
3. New water coolers were installed.

George Morris School

New lighting was installed in a shop.

Franklin School

1. New fluorescent lights were installed in a double classroom.
2. The school library was relocated to a new, fully modernized space.
3. Additional vinyl asbestos flooring was installed to upgrade the ground floor.
4. Interior of building was repainted.
5. A storage room for grounds equipment was built.

Forest Glen School

1. The paved playground area at this school was resurfaced.
2. A library workroom was enlarged for special education use.

Foley Field

1. A new sewer system was installed.
2. The interior of the field house was painted.
3. Worn out lockers were replaced in one locker room.

All boilers were disassembled and completely cleaned. Each boiler was given the required safety inspection by a State licensed inspector.

Building custodians, assisted in some cases by summer employees, thoroughly cleaned the interior of all the buildings. Each classroom has been gone over from top to bottom and each piece of furniture washed in preparation for the opening of schools.

2046 work orders in all trade areas were completed.

